Shortage in Supply of Edible Oil

810. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage in supply of edible oil during the current year was apprehended by Government;

(b) if so, details of estimated demand of edible oil and estimated production/ supply of edible oil in the country during the period under reckoning;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have allowed import of edible oil viz. Palmolein for distribution through Pubic Distribution System to meet shortages;

(d) what is the quantity of Palmolein decided to be imported and the quantity imported so far alongwith the names of agencies involved in the import;

(e) whether it is a fact that a huge stock of Palmolein has been lying in prologned storage in Bombay and other centres under the custody of respective States administrations because they have not finalised agreement with packaging and distributing agencies; and

(f) details of the steps taken, if any, to ensure timely and adequate availability of Palmolein at the Public Distribution System outlines throughout the contry, uniformly?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The production of edible oils during the oil year (Nov.—Oct.) 1994-95 is likely to be 64.0 lakh tonnes as compared to the estimated demand of 69.8 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) The StateTrading Corporation has been authorised to import RBD Palmolein for supply under the Public Distribution System. Import of 1.07 lakh tonnes of Palmolein has been made by STC during the year 1994-95.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Delivery of allocated quantities of imported palmolein is made to States/ UTs from the principal distribution Centres of STC located all over the country. After the oil is lifted from the STC Depots, it is the responsibility of the respective State Government/UT Administrations to ensure speedy distribution of the stocks to consumers through Fair Price Shops/Cooperative Outlets.

Rise in prices of essential commodities

811. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI G. G. SWELL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the rise in prices of essetnial commodities since the installation of the present Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that common people and particularly the people below poverty line have been hit hard due to inflation; if so what are the details about the sections of the population adversely affected;

(c) what are the factors that have led to rise in prices of essential commodities;

(d) whether the process of liberalisation has any relation with the rise in price in essential commodities; and

(e) if so, what measures are being undertaking to counter the adverse effect of liberalisation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A Statement showing the veriation in the Wholesale Price Index of Selected essential commodities as on 22-6-1991 and 25-2-1995 is given here. *See* below).